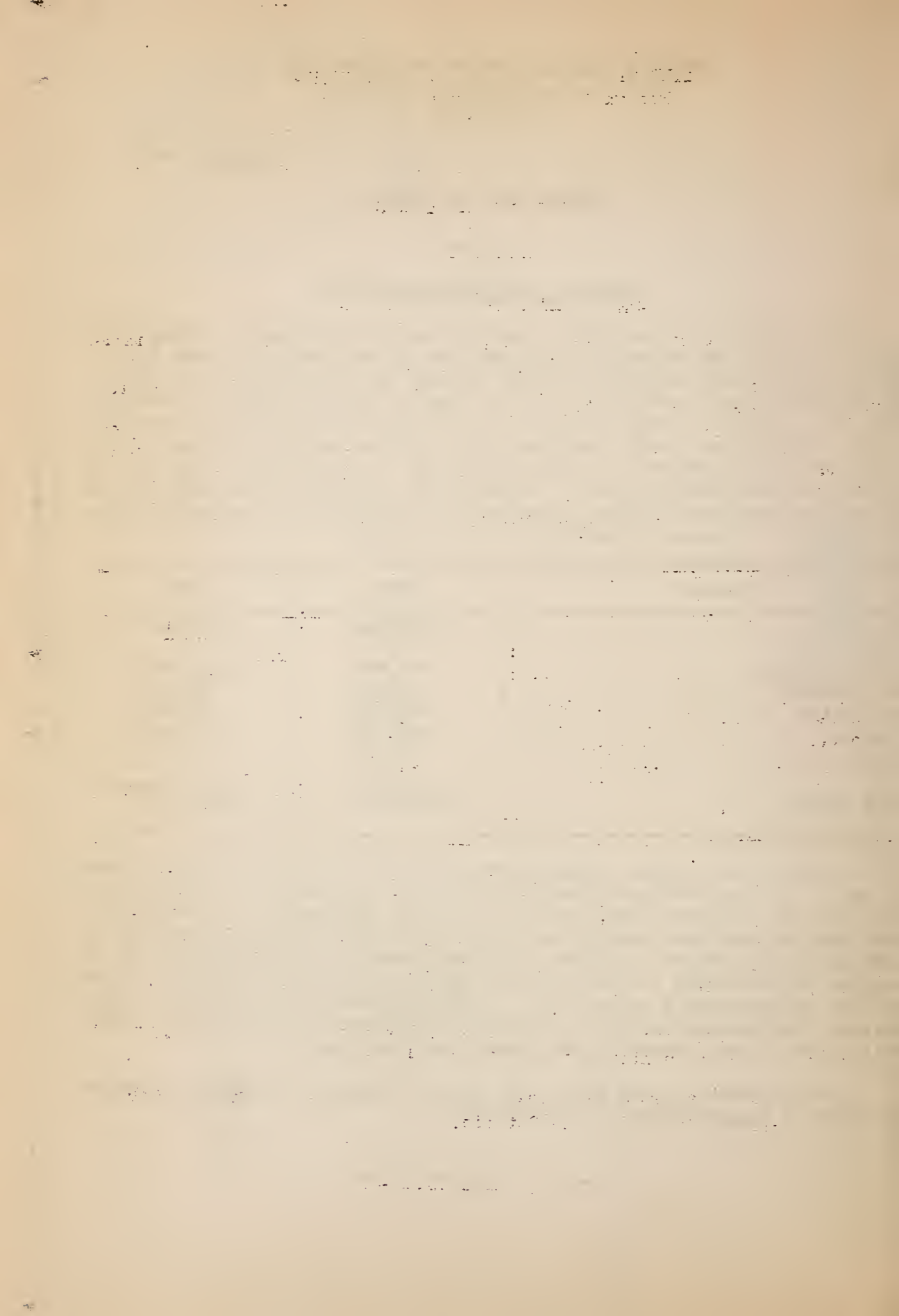
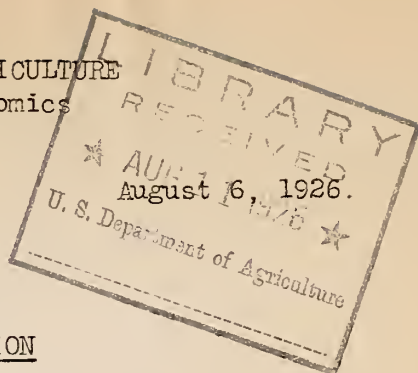


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

CZECHOSLOVAK APPLE SITUATION

On July 12, 1926, a section for trading in fresh fruit was opened on the Prague Produce Exchange, according to advices from Commercial Attache Hodgson at Prague. The new section was instituted because of the increasing volume of fresh fruit being handled in that market.

Apple crop prospects for the current year are not very good since weather conditions have been unfavorable for the development of the fruit. Heavy rainfall and wind storms during June and July caused much of the fruit to drop from the trees, while the remainder is below normal quality. Estimates place the volume somewhat below that of last year. The apple harvest in Czechoslovakia takes place during the latter part of August and the month of September, while the bulk of the exports move during September and October.

Under normal conditions Czechoslovakia exports about 1,000,000 bushels of apples annually. The fruit is of good quality and flavor. Germany is the largest market for Czechoslovak apples, taking about 85 per cent of the exports each year. Other markets, in the order of their importance, are Austria, Denmark, England, Sweden and Holland. The major part of the apple exports are shipped by river barges to Germany, where they are reshipped from convenient points. This method of transportation reduces the freight charges to the minimum. Czechoslovak apples flood many of the larger German markets, particularly Berlin and Hamburg, during the fall and winter months and compete actively with the American apples at these points.

There has been little attempt in Czechoslovakia to improve the quality of the fruit or to grade the part intended for marketing. As a result the Czechoslovak fruit grower does not obtain a very high return on his labor. Apples destined for export are packed loosely, either in barrels or sacks, the individual fruit being unwrapped. The usual method followed by fruit exporters in marketing their product abroad is to place their shipments in the hands of foreign correspondents who handle them on consignment.

The export of apples is controlled by the government through the issuance of export permits by the Ministry of Commerce. These permits are granted freely except when a crop failure causes a shortage of fruit within the country. No information has been received as to whether or not the short crop this year will cause a restriction of export permits. It is apparent, however, that there will be fewer Czechoslovak apples in the way of American supplies during November and December than would ordinarily be the case.

